

withdraw settlements from much of the West Bank and all of Gaza. The other, even harder given the understandable emotion that the murder of innocent civilians triggers, is to show the restraint that the Bush Administration has asked Israel to show with regard to retaliation against the leaders of Hamas and other terrorist groups. I do not deny Israel's right to act in its own defense, but I do urge the government to consider seriously the wisdom of Mr. Friedman's argument for restraint as a very important step towards testing the prospects for peace.

I have been struck, in conversations with Israeli government officials, by the confidence they have expressed in the good intentions of the new Palestinian Prime Minister, Mahmoud Abbas. But it is also clear that he faces great difficulties, including, sadly, the hostility of Yasir Arafat, whose unwillingness seriously to make peace has been a major factor contributing to the turmoil in the region. Refraining from actions which will unnecessarily undercut Prime Minister Abbas, is clearly in the interest of Israel, certainly until it becomes clearer as to whether or not he will be able to achieve the peace that Israel believes he seeks.

Thomas Friedman's article in the New York Times for Saturday, June 21, spells out this complex set of considerations very well, and I ask that this important article be reprinted here.

THE REALITY PRINCIPLE  
(By Thomas L. Friedman)

Have you noticed how often Israel kills a Hamas activist and the victim is described by Israelis as "a senior Hamas official" or a "key operative"? This has led me to wonder: How many senior Hamas officials could there be? We're not talking about I.B.M. here. We're talking about a ragtag terrorist group. By now Israel should have killed off the entire Hamas leadership twice. Unless what is happening is something else, something I call Palestinian math: Israel kills one Hamas operative and three others volunteer to take his place, in which case what Israel is doing is actually self-destructive.

Self-destructive is, in fact, a useful term to describe Israelis and Palestinians today. "Both sides," notes the Israeli political theorist Yaron Ezrahi, "have crossed the line where self-defense has turned into self-destruction. When self-defense becomes self-destruction, only an external force can bring people back to their senses. And that force is President Bush. I think he is the only reality principle left that either side might listen to, and I hope he understands that."

You know that both sides are in self-destruction mode when you can look at their military actions and say that even if they succeeded they would be worse off. The question is not whether Israel has a right to kill senior Hamas officials. They are bad guys. The question is whether it's smart for Israelis to do it now.

The fact is, the only time Israelis have enjoyed extended periods of peace in the last decade has been when Palestinian security services disciplined their own people, in the heyday of Oslo. Unfortunately, Yasir Arafat proved unwilling to do that consistently. The whole idea of the Bush peace process is to move Mr. Arafat aside and replace him with a Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, who is ready to rebuild the Palestinian security services, and, in the context of an interim peace settlement, corral Hamas.

Hamas knows this. So its tactic is to goad Israel into attacks that will unravel the whole process. The smart thing for Israel to

do—and it's not easy when your civilians are being murdered—is not to play into Hamas's hands. The smart thing is to say to Mr. Abbas: "How can we help you crack down on Hamas? We don't want Israel to own Hamas's demise. Palestinians have to root out this cancer within their own society. If Israelis try to do it, it will only metastasize."

Israel's supporters argue that if America can go after Osama bin Laden, Israel can go after Hamas. Of course Israel is entitled to pursue its mortal enemies, just as America does, but it cannot do it with reckless abandon, notes Mr. Ezrahi, for one reason: America will never have to live with Mr. bin Laden's children. They are far away and always will be. Israel will have to live with the Palestinians, after the war. They are right next door and always will be.

The fact is, Ariel Sharon's two years of using the Israeli Army alone to fight terrorism have not made Israelis more secure. He needs a Palestinian partner, and he has to operate and negotiate in a way that will nurture one. And the people who get that the best are Israelis. In a Yediot Ahronot poll released Friday, two-thirds of Israelis were critical of Mr. Sharon's tactic of targeted assassinations of Hamas officials and said they wanted Mr. Abbas to be given a chance to establish his authority.

It may be that Mr. Abbas can't step up to this. It may be that the Palestinians are capable only of self-destructive revenge, rather than constructive restraint and reconciliation. But surely Israel has more to gain in the long term by giving Mr. Abbas every change to prove otherwise, and to empower him to do so, rather than killing one more Hamas "senior official," who will only be replaced by three others.

Because if the two sides cannot emerge from this dead end, then you can forget about a two-state solution, which is what both Hamas's followers and the extremist Jewish settlers want. They each want a one-state solution, in which their side will control all of Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. The one-state solution would mean the end of the Zionist enterprise, because Israel can rule such an entity, in which there would soon be more Arabs than Jews, only by apartheid or ethnic cleansing. It would also mean the end of Palestinian nationalism, because the Israelis will crush the Palestinians rather than be evicted. That is the outcome we are heading toward, though, unless the only reality principle left, the United States of America, really intervenes—with its influence, its wisdom and, if necessary, its troops.

HONORING CLINICA MARIPOSA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Clinica Mariposa, Planned Parenthood of Watsonville, CA. During a time when healthcare services are continually becoming more expensive, and information on reproductive health is becoming more restricted, Planned Parenthood provides invaluable services and resources to the Watsonville community. For nearly thirty years, Clinica Mariposa has offered education, outreach, and medical services to an ever-growing population that depends on these affordable services.

Since the establishment of Planned Parenthood services in Watsonville in 1974, there has been a demonstrated commitment to affordability, cultural sensitivity, confidentiality,

and high medical standards. All of these things contribute to the achievement of Planned Parenthood's goal of "every child, a wanted child, every family a healthy family."

It is frightening that in a country based on opportunity and equality, there are so many people who are without healthcare. Planned Parenthood has become a crucial part of the local healthcare network that provides a broad range of affordable services. Over the years, the growing health needs of the Watsonville community have been answered by Planned Parenthood and their ever-expanding services and facilities. By utilizing community-based satellites at farm labor camps and community agencies in addition to the Penny Lane location, Planned Parenthood fills a special role serving low-income residents regardless of their insurance status.

In an atmosphere where the constitutionally established right to reproductive choice is being threatened, and access to comprehensive sex education is being limited, the presence and services of Planned Parenthood are critical now more than ever. The presence of Planned Parenthood in Watsonville has ensured that residents have the full spectrum of choices and opportunities regarding their health. In addition, through school based education programs, Planned Parenthood has worked to reduce unintended teen pregnancies by giving young people the information and skills they need to make healthy choices.

The exceptional services that Planned Parenthood offers would be impossible without the dedication of the staff, the generosity of their many supporters, and the support of community leaders. I applaud the hard work of all those who have devoted their time and energy to the cause of affordable, high quality healthcare at the Watsonville Planned Parenthood.

INTRODUCING THE "SMALL BUSINESS FEDERAL SAFEGUARD ACT"

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy and generate nearly half of our nation's GDP, yet the federal government is shutting small businesses out of the federal contracting process by bundling small contracts together into large megacontracts.

In my State of Hawai'i for example, the federal government has created large megacontracts for military housing projects. This allows huge corporations to swoop in and win the contracts, even though Hawai'i's small businesses could do the work. Bundling has put these projects, and many other government contracts, out of the reach of small businesses and forces them to become subcontractors. I have heard from countless small business owners who said subcontracting for a large prime contractor is detrimental to their financial health and unfairly forces them to abide by the large corporations' work rules.

Today I introduce a companion bill to S. 633. This bill will strengthen the definition of a bundled contract and prevent federal agencies